

SOME  
OBSERVATIONS  
ON THE  
Occasional Writer,

NUMB. IV.

Wherein the *Folly* and *Treachery* of  
that Writer is expos'd, and set in a  
true Light.

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L O N D O N:

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# OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

Occasional Winter

Where the Air is  
that Winter is  
very light

By J. R. ROBERTSON  
Author of the



S O M E

## OBSERVATIONS, &c.

**I**T must give great Pleasure and Satisfaction to all who wish well to their Country, to hear the *mal-content* Party making this Supposition, and ask the following Question upon it:

“ Suppose a Peace now actually  
“ concluded between *Great Britain*  
“ and *Spain*, or a new Treaty made  
“ on the most advantageous Terms we  
“ could desire. Suppose Restitution  
“ to be made to our Merchants of what-  
“ ever they have been robb’d. What  
“ Security have we, that the *Spaniards*  
“ will not venture once more to renew  
“ their

“ their Insults, their Depredations, their  
 “ Injuries of every Kind; when our  
 “ Fleets return home, our Seamen are  
 “ disbanded, and our Ships laid up?”

Men, who can raise such Obstacles as these to the present Measures, must not only be *apprehensive* that *Spain* has conceded to these Terms; but must be reduc'd to their last *Shifts*, how to prevent such a Treaty from taking place.

They begin to be apprehensive, that Restitution will be made to our injur'd Merchants; that every Dispute and Difference between us and *Spain*, with respect to Trade, or to the Territories we are possess'd of, or claim a Right to, will be settled and adjusted in as plain and strong a manner, as we ourselves can desire.

All this may be very true, say these *sagacious Politicians*; but, “ What *Assurance* have we that any of these  
 “ fine Treaties will be observ'd?”

Let



Let us hear one of their *Chiefs*, *The Occasional Writer*, upon this Head.

“ I confess, (says he) I should by  
 “ no means be surprized to hear that  
 “ our haughty Enemy, at the imme-  
 “ diate and sudden Sense of Danger he  
 “ is in, had received a Panick, and  
 “ frightened at the Sight of this terrible  
 “ Armada, conceded to any Terms.  
 “ No, not if he should sign a *Chart*  
 “ *blanche*, and give us a Power to fill  
 “ up a Skin of Vellum with our own  
 “ Articles, and to guarantee it in what  
 “ manner we pleased. For as such a  
 “ Treaty must be apparently the Child  
 “ of Fear only, it could not be long  
 “ liv'd, it would not be long held sa-  
 “ cred. Men under Apprehensions  
 “ are a sort of Prisoners for the time  
 “ their Fears possess them, and the  
 “ Securities they give, like Bonds made  
 “ by People in Durance, are held not  
 “ to be valid in Honour or Law. A  
 “ Treaty therefore of this kind should  
 “ be

“ be so contriv’d to execute itself, as  
 “ was said some Years ago on a like  
 “ Occasion. Besides, when the Occa-  
 “ sion that created and exacted this  
 “ placid Treaty is removed, that is,  
 “ when our Fleets are returned Home  
 “ and laid up in our Harbours, would  
 “ they not venture once more, since  
 “ they came off with Impunity at  
 “ the Price of a few Words only, to  
 “ insult and rob us? The Affront  
 “ will never be forgotten or forgiven  
 “ by them; as they say among your  
 “ Blades of nice Honour, shaking a  
 “ Cane over a Man’s Head is the same  
 “ Affront as actually caning him, and  
 “ calls for the same Resentment and  
 “ Chastisement.”

It is hard to say, whether more of the *Fool* or the *Knave* appears in all this.

“ If *Spain* should sign a *Chart*  
 “ *blanche*,” that is, should make you  
 all the Satisfaction you can desire or  
 insist

insist upon; this is no *Merit* in the *Ministry*; “such a Treaty must apparently be the Child of Fear only, it could not be long-liv’d, it would not be long held sacred; nay, such a Treaty is held not to be valid in Honour or Law, that is, by the Laws of Nature or Nations.”

And can he stupidly imagine to impose on his Readers by such idle Stuff as this?

Let us suppose the *Ministry* had pursued his Advice, and had actually commenc’d a War with *Spain*: We gain several Victories over them, and push on the War so far, that their Country is in Danger of being overrun. May not another Writer, as *shrewd* as himself, object to this in his own Words? “I confess, I should by no means be surprized to hear that our haughty Enemy, at the immediate and sudden Sense of the Danger he is in, had received a Panick, and

B

“con-

“ conceded to any Terms; but must  
 “ not such a Treaty be apparently the  
 “ Child of Fear only? It could not be  
 “ long-liv’d, it would not long be held  
 “ sacred; nay, indeed such a Treaty  
 “ is held not to be valid by the Laws  
 “ of Nature or Nations.”

Can this Writer produce an Instance  
 of any two Nations, at Variance with  
 each other, where one of them conce-  
 ded to whatever Terms the other de-  
 manded, and that this was not appa-  
 rently the Child of Fear only?

Or suppose our Fleet had an Oppor-  
 tunity, and should make use of it, to  
 fall upon the *Spanish* Fleet, or burn  
 and destroy any of their Sea-port  
 Towns; if, upon this immediate and  
 sudden Danger they were in of our  
 proceeding to farther Hostilities, they  
 should concede to any Terms, and  
 should sign a *Chart blanche*; is not  
 this as apparently the Child of Fear;  
 as the conceding to any Terms upon  
 the



[ II ]

the fight of our Fleet upon their Coast can possibly be?

The Truth is, Whether we send a Fleet to lye upon their Coast, or whether we had made a Descent upon their Country with an Army; whether we actually committed Hostilities, or only let them see, that our Fleet or our Army would not return, till Satisfaction was made us; which way soever we compell'd them to concede to Terms, and conclude a Treaty with us; it might with the *same* Truth be said in every Case; “ That such a Treaty was  
“ apparently the Child of Fear only;  
“ and that when the Occasion that  
“ created and exacted this placid Treaty is removed, that is, when our  
“ Fleets or our Armies are returned  
“ Home, they would venture once  
“ more to insult and rob us.”

There is too much Truth in that common Observation, That any Treaty or Friendship entered into between any

two Nations, seldom lasts longer, than it is for their mutual Interest. But had ever any Writer, before this Man, the Impudence and the Wickedness to *justify* this?

Or can there be a more ridiculous and absurd Supposition, than what this Writer makes, That *Spain* would sooner forgive you, or be more inclin'd to observe any Treaty they should enter into, if your Fleet burnt and ravag'd their Country, or destroyed their Fleet, and so compell'd them to enter into that Treaty ; than if they enter'd into it only out of Fear, and to prevent your ravaging and destroying their Country ?

How *long-liv'd*, or how long any Treaty with *Spain* may be held *sacred* by them, that no Man can possibly answer for. Nor are the *Ministry accountable* for it. They have done their *Duty*, if *Spain* signs such a Treaty as they ought to do.

And

And none but a *Fool* or a *Madman*, or, what is infinitely worse, a Man who would involve his Country in a *War*, will affirm, That it is more prudent and safe to compel *Spain* by Fire and Sword to concede to reasonable Terms, than to effect this in a peaceable way, by convincing them how much it is for the Interest of both Nations, that a perfect Harmony and Friendship should subsist between them.

But farther; the *Weakness* of this Writer is not more apparent, than his *Disbonesty* and *Treachery* to his Country. He would fain persuade the People of *England* not to sit down contented with any Treaty *Spain* may enter into, how advantageous soever, because he pretends to foretel, that it will not long be held sacred. And, in the next place, in hopes that what he thus foretels may come to pass, he basely and treacherously insinuates, “ That *Spain* “ is not oblig’d to observe any such “ Treaty.” “ Men

“ Men (says he) under Apprehen-  
 “ fions are a sort of Prisoners for the  
 “ Time their Fears possess them ; and  
 “ the Securities they give, like Bonds  
 “ made by People in Durance, are  
 “ held not to be valid in Honour or  
 “ Law.”

Is not this just the same, as if he  
 had told *Spain* in so many Words?

“ You need not scruple to enter into  
 “ any Treaty with *Great Britain*; for  
 “ as such a Treaty must be the Child  
 “ of Fear only, whatever Treaties  
 “ you enter into, during the Time  
 “ those Fears possess you, they are  
 “ held not to be valid by the Laws of  
 “ Nature or Nations.”

Can any one doubt after this, that  
 this *Man* and his *Associates* sincerely  
 desire that Restitution should be made  
 for the Injuries we have receiv'd?

Or rather, may we not justly say of  
 them, that they will make use of the  
*lowest* and the *vilest* Arts to perpetuate  
 the



the Differences between *Spain* and their own Country?

It is not peculiar to any Treaty, that can be enter'd into between *Great Britain* and *Spain*, that it was in some measure extorted by Fear. No; there is not perhaps an Instance of any one Treaty between any two Nations at Variance with each other, but it may be justly said, "That on one Side such  
" Treaty was apparently the Child of  
" Fear only; and generally so, on the  
" Side of the Aggressor, or that Na-  
" tion who has injur'd the other."

But is this any Reason, "That such  
" Treaty ought not to be held sacred?" Did ever any Writer before this Wretch declare, "That such Treaty is not va-  
" lid in Honour or Law, by the Laws  
" of Nature or Nations?"

Monstrous Declaration! and worthy only of a *modern Patriot*. Such an abandon'd Creature ought not to enjoy the Protection of any Govern-  
ment,

ment, or be suffer'd to live in any civiliz'd Country.

There is another Passage to the same Purpose in this *doughty Performance*, this *impudent Libel* upon all States and Governments.

“ Let us (says he) suppose a Peace  
 “ now actually concluded, or a new  
 “ Treaty made on the most advantageous Terms. In consequence of  
 “ this, our Fleets return home in Triumph, our Seamen are disbanded,  
 “ our Ships laid up, and so are the  
 “ Apprehensions of the *Spaniards*;  
 “ they find all is safe; it must be some  
 “ time, says the Enemy, before we  
 “ can receive another Visit of this  
 “ sort: Well, they venture once more  
 “ to renew their Insults, their Depredations, their Injuries of every kind;  
 “ our Merchants likewise renew their  
 “ Complaints; they again petition,  
 “ remonstrate, and apply to the Government successfully, as before; a  
 new

“ new Fleet is fitted out, at a new  
 “ and a prodigious Expence; the  
 “ *Spaniard's* Ague Fit returns, they  
 “ renew their Treaty, and graciously  
 “ give you, if you insist upon it,  
 “ greater Promises and stronger Assu-  
 “ rances than before. May not  
 “ this be done *singulis annis*, 'till  
 “ we have neither Money, nor Men,  
 “ nor Credit left in the World that  
 “ can be of any use to us? But, if  
 “ we make the *Spaniard* feel, if we  
 “ give him Cause to remember the Ef-  
 “ fects of our Power, we shall keep  
 “ him humble, and make him just  
 “ for his own Sake; we shall then  
 “ give him Arguments that must con-  
 “ vince him, that no Alliance can  
 “ screen him, and no Power support  
 “ him. This, in my poor Opinion, is  
 “ to be done now; this is the *Crisis*, the  
 “ very *Crisis*. If this Opportunity of  
 “ making Reprisals shall be neglected,  
 “ and restoring to our Merchants what-

“ ever they have been robb’d of, we  
 “ shall probably never have another;  
 “ and the peaceable Fleets we shall  
 “ fit out for the future will be so many  
 “ Goblins, Shadows only, a sort of  
 “ warlike Appearances; and when  
 “ they disappear, will be scouted and  
 “ ridiculed as idle Dreams.”

What now is all this *choice Stuff*,  
 but a dictating to *Spain*, “ That they  
 “ are Fools, if, when our Fleets re-  
 “ turn, they do not, notwithstanding  
 “ any Peace or Treaty they shall so-  
 “ lemnly make, renew their Insults,  
 “ their Depredations, their Injuries of  
 “ every kind?”

But see the *Stupidity* of this *Incendi-  
 ary*. Is not every Word of this as ap-  
 plicable even to *those* Measures he would  
 advise to be taken, as to *those* he oppo-  
 ses? Suppose we were to ravage and  
 plunder their Country, which is all  
 that we can do, or ought to do, accord-  
 ing to his Politicks; for he declares him-  
 self



self against ' *Great Britain's* extend-  
 ' ing her Dominion or Power.' What  
 follows upon this? Why, no doubt he  
 will tell you, ' A Peace will be conclu-  
 ' ded, and a new Treaty made; and  
 ' then your Fleets may return home in  
 ' Triumph, your Seamen be disbanded,  
 ' and your Ships laid up.'

And what should hinder, ' but, when  
 ' the *Spaniards* find all is safe, they  
 ' should say, it must be some time be-  
 ' fore we can receive another Visit of  
 ' this sort. They venture once more to  
 ' renew their Insults, their Depredati-  
 ' ons, their Injuries of every kind. Our  
 ' Merchants renew their Complaints, a  
 ' new Fleet is fitted out, at a new and a  
 ' prodigious Expence; the *Spaniards*  
 ' renew their Treaty; and, if you insist  
 ' upon it, give you greater Promises  
 ' and stronger Assurances than before.  
 ' May not this be done *singulis annis*,  
 ' 'till we have neither Money nor Men,  
 ' nor Credit left in the World that can  
 ' be of Use to us.'

Not so, says this *political Head-piece*. ‘ If we make the *Spaniard* feel, ‘ if we give him Cause to remember ‘ the Effects of our Power, we shall ‘ keep him humble, and make him ‘ just for his own sake. This, in my ‘ poor Opinion, is to be done now. ‘ This is the *Crisis*, the very *Crisis*.’

‘ Make the *Spaniard* feel.’ Feel what? The plundering and laying waste a Part of their Country? And what shall we be the *better* for this, or they the *worse*? Ay, but ‘ this is the ‘ *Crisis*, the very *Crisis*.’ *Crisis* for what? If he would speak to the purpose; the keeping a Fleet upon the Coast of *Spain* prevents any of their Fleets, by which they subsist, and without which it is impossible they should long subsist, from going out or returning home.

This is the *true* Way to ‘ make them ‘ *feel*, and to give them Cause to remember the Effects of our Power: ‘ This

‘ This will keep them humble, and  
 ‘ make them just for their own sakes:  
 ‘ This gives them Arguments that must  
 ‘ convince them, that no Alliance can  
 ‘ screen them, and no Power support  
 ‘ them.’

It is very true; when they have made us full Satisfaction, which there is not the least Reason to doubt of, and our Fleets return home, our Seamen disbanded, and our Ships laid up, they may venture again to renew their Injults, their Depredations, their Injuries of every kind. Nor is this possible to be *absolutely* prevented, but by our keeping a Fleet *constantly* upon their Coast.

But one may venture to say, there is not the least *Probability* that they will dare to do this; at least they would as *certainly* do it, after the Return of our Fleets, if we were to plunder and ravage their Country all around them.

I re-

I repeat it, There is not the least Reason to apprehend that they will dare to injure and insult us again, as they have done; considering how vastly they must suffer, how they must indeed be reduced to the utmost Distress, such as the People in *Spain* would never endure. If they should by their repeated Injuries and Insults provoke *Great Britain*, as they most certainly would do, to send another Fleet upon their Coast, tho' at a new and a prodigious Expence; (for the Expence is all among ourselves;) they might then depend upon it, that our Fleets would not return, even if they offer'd to renew the Treaty, and gave us ten times greater Promises and Assurances than before. No, we should then resolve to bear the Expence, and not consent to our Fleet returning home, till either a Rebellion was kindled in their own Country, or their Fleets fall a Prey to ours, or both.

This



This, they must be sensible, would be their Fate. This, and this *alone*, is the Measure which will ‘make the  
 ‘*Spaniard feel*, will give him Cause to  
 ‘remember the Effects of our Power, to  
 ‘keep him humble, and make him  
 ‘just for his own sake.’

And this Measure, as far as we can judge, is what the *Ministry* have wisely resolved on, and advised the putting of it in Execution.

This Writer has one *Stratagem* more, which he has reserved for the last, to try if it be possible to involve his Country in a War; which is, by *cajoling* a certain *Honourable Person*, and endeavouring to persuade him, how much it would be for his *Honour* to enter into a War with *Spain*.

‘I verily believe, says he, that no  
 ‘*Minister* that ever breath’d in *Eng-*  
 ‘*land*, and had lost the good Affecti-  
 ‘on of his Fellow-Subjects, ever had  
 ‘such an Opportunity, I will not say  
 ‘to

‘to recover, but to gain Popularity.’

Pag. 39.

How *fond* the *harmless Creature* is grown all on a sudden? Would any one believe, that in the very next Paragraph he should have the Insolence to bespatter this very Person, whose Recovery of the good Opinion of his Fellow-Subjects he is here so anxious about, with all those pretty Epithets of, ‘*guilty Wretch, abandoned Caitiff, dastardly Creature?*’ And conclude all with this hearty Curse; ‘*May the Execrations of a most injur’d People light on his Head, and prevent his Measures. Let his Enemy persecute his Soul, and take it; yea, let him tread his Life down upon the Earth, and lay his Honour in the Dust.*’

Does not this contain fine *Reason* and *Argument*? Can any thing be a more ample *Proof*, That the *Honourable Person*, on whom this *Language* is bestow’d, must have lost the good Opinion of his Fellow-Subjects? We

We all know who the *Minister* is, that is pointed out here. And as much as this Writer would represent him to have *lost* the good Opinion of his Fellow-Subjects, I am verily persuaded, that no *Minister* (to borrow his polite Expression) ‘that ever breath’d in *England*,’ was *equal* to him in *Knowledge* and *Capacity*, or *excell’d* him in *Honesty* and *Integrity*; and that even his Enemies have this *Opinion* of him. He may have gain’d the Envy of some *Few* of his Fellow-Subjects, as he is revil’d by *All* who seek the Ruin of their Country; but a general *Infatuation* must have spread itself throughout the Kingdom, before it can be true, *that such a Man has lost the good Opinion of his Fellow-Subjects.*

It must be confess’d, that, when the Nation was *artfully* work’d up into a *Ferment*, by representing the Usage we had receiv’d from the *Spaniards* in the most *odious* Colours; and whilst that *Ferment* was at the *height*, a War

(as this Writer observes) was almost universally call'd for.

But now that People have had time to *cool* and *deliberate* upon the matter, they begin to see their *Error*, and to *applaud* the Measures that have been taken to make *Spain* sensible of their own Interest, and of the Justice of our Demands.

And indeed, it had been enough to open the Eyes of all true Lovers of their Country, to observe with what *Earnestness* and *Impatience* the whole Body of *Papists*, and Persons otherwise *disaffected* to the present Government, *united* in this general Clamour for a War with *Spain*.

Would these Men have acted this *Part*, if they had *really* thought a War with *Spain* to be for the Interest of *Great Britain*? No Man in his Senses can believe this. They were wise enough to foresee, and God knows a poor Stock of Wisdom it requir'd, that  
a War



a War once enter'd into is not so *easily* to be made an *End* of; and, that it might be attended with *Calamities*, that none but those, who *wish* for Confusion, desire to see.

As for what this Writer suggests, ' That the Apprehensions of some personal Misfortune, which might happen to a certain Servant of the Publick, (as his Phrase is) if the War should break out with Violence, was the true and only Reason, that determin'd that Person to oppose the entering into a War.' This is the most ridiculous Suggestion; it being impossible that any Misfortune could happen to *Him*, that would not *equally* affect his *Country*.

He had not, he could not *possibly* have any thing to fear for *Himself*, but what he equally apprehended for his *Country*. He consider'd a War in all its *Circumstances*, and wisely preferr'd another Method to make *Spain* sensi-

ble, how much we had been injur'd, how just and reasonable it was that Satisfaction should be made, and that the People of *England* would bear those Injuries and Insults no longer. And I may venture to say, that his Councils have been successful to attain the End he propos'd by them, *viz.* To procure a full and just Satisfaction, and to settle our Trade upon so plain and lasting a Foundation, that no future Differences can arise, unless *Spain* should be so rash, as to follow the Advice of this Writer, ' That they are ' not bound by any Treaty they shall ' enter into with *Great Britain* at this ' Juncture.'

The *poor Gentleman* seems to be under the strongest *Apprehensions*, of the Truth of this himself. Nothing less than the *dreadful* Apprehensions of *Spain* making us a just Satisfaction in all our Demands, without compelling them to it by Fire and Sword, could have forc'd

forc'd him, in the *Bitterness* of his Soul, to break out into such a *vile, unparallel'd*, and *unguarded* Exclamation as this.

‘ If (says he) there be any guilty  
 ‘ Wretch, who has devoted his Coun-  
 ‘ try, instead of himself, to Perdition;  
 ‘ a Caitiff, who trembles at losing a few  
 ‘ Hours of an almost worn-out and a-  
 ‘ bandoned Life, rather than save a  
 ‘ sinking Nation; a Creature so coura-  
 ‘ gious, yet so dastardly; so pusilani-  
 ‘ mous, yet so rash, not to fear the ac-  
 ‘ cumulated Rage of a most injur'd Peo-  
 ‘ ple; May the Execrations of a most  
 ‘ injured People light on his Head, and  
 ‘ prevent his Measures. Let his Enemy  
 ‘ persecute his Soul, and take it; yea,  
 ‘ let him tread his Life down upon the  
 ‘ Earth, and lay his Honour in the Dust.’

What a *Rant* is this? The Man must not be in his *Senses*, that could pronounce it. It is to be hop'd, there is but ONE Man in the Kingdom, who could foul his Mouth or his Pen with  
 so

so much *Rancour*, and *Malice*, and *Revenge*. He is not content to vent the most *horrid* and *execrable* Curses against the *Man* he is resolved to ruin, but he brings his *Country* in for their Share.

‘ May his Measures, says he, be pre-  
‘ vented ;’ that is, may the Good,  
which he is endeavouring to bring a-  
bout for his Country, never *happen*;  
may his Country be *ruin’d*, rather than  
it should flourish under *his* Conduct,  
or from any Advice he may give, or  
any Measures he may take.

This is not a *forc’d*, but the *natural*  
and *necessary* Construction of his Words.  
And in this I, and every Man that  
reads them will do him Justice, *That*  
*he speaks in Sincerity, and from the*  
*very Bottom of his Soul.*

Surely this *poor despairing Creature*,  
just before he penn’d this Paragraph,  
must have been reading that remarka-  
ble Speech in *Milton*, which the *Devil*  
makes to the *Sun*, when he beholds  
how



how high that *bright Orb* was *exalted*, and *himself* cast down.

If the Reader would see a true *Pi-cture* of this *Man*, and the *true Reason* of his venting his Rage against that *Honourable Person*, let him read this Speech of the *Devil*. It is but to put *him* in the Place of the *Devil*, and the *Person* he vents his Rage against in the Place of the *Sun*, and almost every Line of that Speech is a true *Comment* upon his.

But it is his *Dying Speech*. Let the Reader therefore *pity* and *forgive* him.

To conclude: The *Madness* of this *Man* in cursing of his *Country*, at the same time he curses that *Person* whom he looks upon as his greatest Enemy, brings to my Remembrance an Account that was published in one of the *Sessions Papers* not long ago, of a despairing and abandoned Wretch; who, being brought upon his Trial, for the Murder

Murder of one of his Fellow-Subjects, when he saw that Vengeance had overtaken him, and unavoidable Death star'd him in the Face, was not content to wish *Damnation* to the *Person*, whose *Office* it was to pronounce Sentence against him; but, turning about to the *People*, pour'd forth this dreadful Curse against them, --- *And G---d damn you all together.*

**FINIS.**